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The House Government Operations Committee's approval of the Freedom of Information bill already passed in the Senate no doubt will send the measure along to passage in the whole House. It ought to be enacted into law.

Few pieces of legislation have had more thorough study in both houses of Congress. There were very full and complete hearings on the Senate side and the House committee gave it long and careful attention. The bill represents a cautious and painstakingly careful effort to meet the requirements of disclosure essential in a democratic society without putting in jeopardy personal rights to privacy or governmental security.

The bill acknowledges the right to know, delimits it carefully in many areas, and provides a court remedy for improper withholding. It should have been put on the statute books generations ago.